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IAP20 REC'D CTY 10.24 JAN 2006
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— Your Reference: 11296p1 gb/kh/jcm.pah
Application No: GB 0317720.1

25 November 2003

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

Latest date for reply: 29 July 2005

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **21 December 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.



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If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 21 December 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

Darren Williams
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could prominently indicate in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB 0317720.1
Claims searched: 1-11

Examiner: Darren Williams
Date of search: 24 November 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X	1-11	EP 0388185 A1	(UNILEVER) see whole document, especially fig 6
X, Y	X; 1-7, 9-11 Y; 8	EP 1063172 A3	(FISCHER) see figures and WPI abstract accession number 2001-104773 [12]
X, Y	X; 1-5, 7, 9-11 Y; 8	GB 1180427	(DONOGUE) see whole document
Y	8	WO 91/07333 A1	(BAVIELLO) see figs 3 & 4 and abstract

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC⁶:

B8D, B8T

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

B65D

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Novelty; Inventive step

1. The invention as defined in claims 1-11 is not new or is obvious because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

EP 0388185 A1 (UNILEVER) see fig 6, particularly relevant to claims 1-11

EP 1063172 A3 (FISCHER) see fig 2, particularly relevant to claims 1-11

GB 1180427 (DONOGUE) see all figs, particularly relevant to claims 1-11

WO 91/07333 A1 (BAVIELLO) see figs 3 & 4, particularly relevant to claim 8

2. Unilever and Fischer both disclose a container having two separate reservoirs containing two different substances, a pair of parallel passageways in a side-to-side relationship, and a nozzle including a deflector plate which projects from the end of the nozzle and tapers in the direction of flow, in order to mix together the substances at dispensing. Therefore claims 1-11 are not novel.

3. Donogue discloses a container having two separate reservoirs containing two different substances, a pair of parallel passageways in a side-to-side relationship, and a nozzle including a deflector plate which could be easily modified to extend beyond the nozzle and to be tapered. Unilever and Baviello disclose angled nozzles in respect to the main axis of the container, a person skilled in the art would find it obvious to combine either of the nozzles of Unilever or Baviello with either of Fischer or Donogue. Therefore claims 1-11 do not involve the required inventive step and so amendment will be necessary.

Clarity

4. The scope of the invention is unclear due to the inconsistencies between the independent claims 1 and 11. Claim 1 specifies a "bottle" having "two reservoirs," yet claim 11 makes no reference to these features. The independent claims should be fully consistent with each other. Amendment is required.

5. The description should be brought into line with any amendments made to the claims.

The title of the invention

6. The title of your specification does not clearly indicate the nature of your invention. I suggest "Device for dispensing and mixing multiple liquids" would be a better title.